

From: [Kader, Hanady](#)
To: [Soderlund, Dianne](#); [Opalski, Dan](#); [Jennings, Marie](#); [Kawabata, Sylvia](#); [Perkins, Brandon](#); [Holsman, Marianne](#)
Subject: RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: KUAC Radio Fairbanks, sulfolane groundwater contamination in North Pole
Date: Tuesday, June 25, 2013 2:17:00 PM

I'm planning to send the responses below at 3:00pm. Thanks for all your help in getting answers.

Who took the call/e-mail: Hanady Kader

Date and Time: 6/21

Deadline: 12pm Tuesday

Media Outlet: KUAC Radio, Fairbanks

Reporter (include phone number and/or e-mail): Tim Ellis

Topic: Sulfolane contamination in North Pole groundwater

Wants to know about the EPA's role, if any, in the monitoring and cleanup of the sulfolane contamination problem.

Email: I'm told that one or more local officials in the Fairbanks-North Pole area have asked the EPA to play a greater role in the effort. One person tells me that a local official has asked the EPA to take over the effort altogether from the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

1. What's the EPA's role in this issue so far? Can you characterize that in general terms such as oversight, or consulting with DEC, or that sort of general description? Or does it have any role, other than having some sort of being informed by the state DEC of the problem and kept updated -- that sort of thing?

[In May 2010, EPA was petitioned by Alaska Community Action on Toxics \(ACAT\) to conduct a PA at Flint Hills Refinery.\(this is the refinery in North Pole where the sulfolane has leaked into the groundwater\).](#)

2. Has EPA been contacted recently by local officials who've asked EPA to play a greater role, or even to take over the monitoring/cleanup?

[EPA completed the PA in June 2012. EPA looking at the various options for EPA's involvement at this site. EPA still needs need to discuss these options with ADEC.](#)

3. Whether or not it's true that local officials have asked the EPA to expand its role in the monitoring/cleanup (I hope to confirm that today) -- is EPA going to expand its role in the monitoring/cleanup? Is that already going to happen anyway?

[ADEC in February 2013 came to Seattle and presented to EPA's superfund program the current work and planned work at the site. ADEC occasionally provides EPA updates.](#)

4. Has EPA made a decision on assuming jurisdiction over the sulfolane-remediation efforts in the North Pole, Alaska area? If not, why not? Does EPA believe the ADEC is doing an adequate job overseeing remediation?

ADEC asked EPA for technical assistance. EPA's Office of Research and Development (Ada, OK lab) is assisting ADEC on better understanding the degradation of sulfolane in the subsurface aquifer.

5. Is EPA considering a request by Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Luke Hopkins to provide funding for extending the area's municipal water system into affected areas in and around North Pole, to provide an alternative source of drinking water for residents of that area?

ADEC has the lead for addressing this issue, and EPA is continuing to look for ways to be supportive of all efforts to find a comprehensive solution. We've committed to following up with state and local officials, including Mayor Hopkins, as we consider the ideas they've brought forward.

Action/Outcome: Including Rick and Lori to figure out who might know more from ECL.

Status: (Open/Closed/Pending): Pending

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